## SIGNIFICANT WEATHER: WMO CODE TABLE 4678

w'w' CODE TABLE 4678 --Significant present and forecast weather

The w'w' groups shall be constructed by considering columns 1 to 5 in the table above in sequence, that is intensity (if appropriate), followed by the descriptor (if appropriate), followed by weather phenomena. For example, heavy rain shower(s) are coded as +SHRA.

| QUALIFIER | | WEATHER PHENOMENA | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| INTENSITY OR PROXIMITY<br>1 | DESCRIPTOR<br>2 | PRECIPITATION<br>3 | OBSCURATION<br>4 | OTHER<br>5 |
| — Light | **MI** Shallow | **DZ** Drizzle | **BR** Mist | **PO** Well-developed dust/ sand whirls |
| Moderate (no qualifier) | **BC** Patches | **RA** Rain | **FG** Fog | **SQ** Squalls |
| + Heavy (or well-developed, in the case of funnel clouds) | **PR** Partial (Covering part of the aerodrome) | **SN** Snow | **FU** Smoke | **FC**[5] Funnel cloud(s) (tornado or waterspout) |
| **VC**[1] In the vicinity | **DR** Low drifting | **SG** Snow grains | **VA** Volcanic ash | **SS** Sandstorm |
| | **BL** Blowing | **IC** Ice crystals | **DU** Widespread dust | **DS** Duststorm |
| | **SH** Shower(s) | **PE** Ice pellets | **SA** Sand | |
| | **TS** Thunderstorm | **GR**[2] Hail | **HZ** Haze | |
| | **FZ** Freezing | **GS**[3] Small hail and/ or snow pellets | **PY** Spray | |
| | | **UP**[4] Unknown precipitation in automated obs | | |

[1] The NWS definition of **VC** applied to the terminal forecast is: An area encompassed between circles with radii of 5 and 10 statute miles, respectively, from the center of the airport's runway complex

[2] diameter of largest hailstone ≥ 1/4"

[3] diameter of hailstones < 1/4"

[4] UP shall not be used in NWS-prepared terminal forecasts

[5] Tornadic activity, including tornadoes, waterspouts, and funnel clouds, should not be included in terminal forecasts because the probability of occurrence at a specific site is very small.